

## Claims

I claim:

1. A data processing method, comprising the steps of:
- providing a server, a data object coupled to the server, and a node coupled to the server;
  - sending a request from the node to the server for access of the data object by the node,
  - checking for whether the requested access is security blocked;
  - if the requested access is not security blocked, determining whether the data object includes a privileged communication (PCOM) between an attorney and a client of the attorney;
  - if the data object includes the PCOM, deciding whether a PCOM message for the data object is to be published at the node; and
  - if the PCOM message is to be published, publishing the PCOM message at the node.
2. The data processing method of claim 1, further comprising after publishing the PCOM message:
- deciding by a user at the node whether to abandon the request for said access;
  - if deciding to abandon, user-abandoning the request; and
  - if deciding not to abandon, user-electing not to abandon and enabling said access.

3. The data processing method of claim 2, further comprising after enabling said access, user-accessing the data object including selecting from the group consisting of reading the data object, editing the data object, and combinations thereof.

4. The data processing method of claim 2, wherein the step of deciding by a user includes selecting the user from the group consisting of the attorney and an attorney-affiliate who is authorized to access the data object.

5. The data processing method of claim 2, wherein the step of deciding by a user includes selecting the user from the group consisting of the client and a client-affiliate who is authorized to access the data object.

6. The data processing method of claim 2, wherein the user is not authorized to access the data object.

7. The data processing method of claim 1, wherein the providing step further includes providing an input from the attorney as to whether the data object includes the PCOM, and wherein the determining includes a dependence on said input.

8. The data processing method of claim 7, wherein the providing step further includes ascertaining whether the data object includes a phrase in a search list, and wherein the determining includes a dependence on a result of said ascertaining.

1 9. The data processing method of claim 1, wherein the determining step includes always  
2 determining that the data object includes the PCOM.

1 10. The data processing method of claim 1, wherein the publishing step includes visually  
2 displaying the PCOM message.

1 11. The data processing method of claim 1, wherein the publishing step includes articulating the  
2 PCOM message by sound.

12. The data processing method of claim 1, wherein the publishing step includes displaying the  
PCOM message including identifying all persons authorized to access the PCOM.

13. The data processing method of claim 1, wherein the deciding step includes a dependence on a  
decision variable.

1 14. The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the steps of the data processing method are  
2 executed in an executing job, and wherein the decision variable includes a dependence on  
3 whether the PCOM message for the data object has been previously published in the executing  
4 job.

1 15. The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the steps of the data processing method are  
2 executed in an executing job, wherein the decision variable includes a dependence on whether a  
3 PCOM message for a second data object has been previously published in the executing job,  
4 wherein the second data object is coupled to the server, and wherein the second data object is  
5 privileged-linked to the first data object.

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1 16. A data processing system, comprising:

2 a data object;

3 security means for determining whether an access to the data object is security blocked;

4 status means for making a determination as to whether the data object includes a

5 privileged communication (PCOM) between an attorney and a client of the attorney;

6 publication means for publishing a PCOM message for the data object; and

7 decision means for deciding whether to execute the publication means to publish the

8 PCOM message for the data object, wherein the decision means includes a dependence on the

determination made by the status means.

17. The data processing system of claim 16, further comprising:

election means for deciding whether to abandon a prior request for the access; and

enabling means for enabling the access.

18. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the status means includes a dependence on

an input from the attorney as to whether the data object includes the privileged communication.

19. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the status means includes a dependence on a

result of a keyphrase search for determining whether the data object includes a phrase in a search

list.

1 20. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the status means always determines that the  
2 data object includes the PCOM.

1 21. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the publication means includes means for  
2 generating a visual display of the PCOM message.

1 22. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the publication means includes means for  
2 generating an audio articulation of the PCOM message.

1 23. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the publication means includes means for  
2 displaying an identification of all persons authorized to read the PCOM.

1 24. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the decision means further includes a  
2 dependence on a decision variable.

1 25. The data processing system of claim 24, further comprising:  
2 an executing job; and  
3 prior-publication means for making a determination as to whether the publication means  
4 has previously published in the executing job the PCOM message for the data object, wherein the  
5 decision variable includes a dependence on the determination made by the prior-publication  
6 means.

1 26. The data processing system of claim 24, further comprising:

2 a second data object within the computer system, where the second data object includes a  
3 second PCOM between the attorney and the client, and wherein the second data object is  
4 privileged-linked to the first data object;

5 an executing job; and

6 prior-publication means for making a determination as to whether a PCOM message for  
7 the second data object has been previously published in the executing job, wherein the decision  
8 variable includes a dependence on the determination made by the prior-publication means.

27. The data processing system of claim 16, further comprising:

a server coupled to the data object;

an attorney node coupled to the server, for enabling the attorney to interact with the data  
object; and

a client node coupled to the server, for enabling the client to interact with the data object.

1 28. The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the server and the client are in accordance  
2 with a client server-model within a distributed computing system selected from the group  
3 consisting of a world wide web of the Internet, a wide area network, and a local area network.

1 29. A computer program product, comprising:

2 a recordable medium; and

3 computer software recorded on the recordable medium, wherein said computer software  
4 includes:

5 security software for determining whether an access to a data object is security

6 blocked;

7 status software for making a determination as to whether the data object includes

8 a privileged communication (PCOM) between an attorney and a client of the attorney;

9 publication software for publishing a PCOM message for the data object; and

10 decision software for deciding whether to execute the publication software to  
11 publish the PCOM message for the data object, wherein the decision software includes a  
12 dependence on the determination made by the status software.

13 30. The computer program product of claim 29, further comprising:

14 election software for deciding whether to abandon a prior request for the access; and

15 enabling software for enabling the access to the data object.



1 31. A data processing system for publishing a privileged communication (PCOM) message,  
2 comprising:  
3 a data object;  
4 security means for determining whether an access to the data object is security blocked;  
5 status means for making a determination as to whether the data object includes a PCOM  
6 between a first person and a second person;  
7 publication means for publishing the PCOM message for the data object; and  
8 decision means for deciding whether to execute the publication means to publish the  
9 PCOM message for the data object, wherein the decision means includes a dependence on the  
10 determination made by the status means.

11 32. The data processing system of claim 31, further comprising:  
12 election means for deciding whether to abandon a prior request for the access, after  
13 execution of the publication means; and  
14 enabling means for enabling the access to the data object, after execution of the election  
15 means.

1 33. The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the PCOM between a first person and a  
2 second person includes a PCOM between a psychotherapist and a client of the psychotherapist.

1 34. The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the PCOM between a first person and a  
2 second person includes a PCOM between a physician and a patient of the physician.

1 35. The data processing system of claim 31, wherein the PCOM between a first person and a  
2 second person includes a PCOM between a husband and a wife of the husband.

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